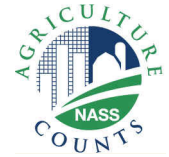




NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Arizona Field Office
230 North 1st Avenue #303
Phoenix, Arizona 85003



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2009

Contact: Steven Manheimer
(602) 280-8850

USDA TO SURVEY CATTLE PRODUCERS IN JULY

Phoenix, Arizona – How are higher feed prices and lower consumer spending affecting U.S. cattle production? How has the recent drop in milk prices affected dairy producers? The U.S. Department of Agriculture is calling on nearly 10,000 cattle and dairy operations, nationwide, to provide the latest and most accurate data on current conditions in the industry including cattle inventories and calf production.

“During the first two weeks of July, the Arizona Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be contacting about 150 operations in order to measure trends in beef and dairy cattle inventories, calf crop and cattle operations” said Arizona director Steven Manheimer.

Those selected for the survey will have the option of responding via telephone, mail, Internet, or personal interview with a local NASS representative. “Whichever option a producer chooses, they are providing an important service to the cattle industry and to U.S. agriculture as a whole,” Manheimer said. “Their responses will be compiled with those of their fellow producers nationwide, providing the only accurate and comprehensive estimate of the state of U.S. cattle production.”

The information they provide is a critical decision-making tool for the cattle industry, he explained. “For example, it helps producers make informed marketing decisions and plan for herd expansion or reduction. It also helps packers and government evaluate expected slaughter volume for future months and determine potential supplies for export,” Manheimer said.

Manheimer noted that, as is the case with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all survey responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

Results will be published in NASS’s biannual *Cattle* report, on July 24, 2009. The report will provide state- and national-level estimates of total inventory, beef cows, milk cows, bulls, replacement heifers, other heifers, steers, calves, and number of calves born during the previous year. This and all reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov.

####